

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Twice amended) An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, [a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box,] the cargo box cover having [a] left and right side rails [rail] connected to said left and right side walls, respectively, an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends [end], said elongate tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right side rail, and [further having] a flexible cover fixedly attached to [along] said elongate tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising: [a] left and right adjustable threaded screw connection mechanisms, including:
respective left and right secured portions secured [block means connected] to said left and right side rails, respectively [rail]; [a] respective left and right adjustable portions [attachment block means] connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail respectively; and [an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to]
respective adjustable screws interconnecting the respective adjustable portions to the respective secured portions; and
a graduated measuring scale on the left and right side rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of the respective left and right sides of the tensioning rail with respect to said left and right side rail.
2. (Twice Amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1 wherein each of said left and right secured portions has [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned

orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block sections and [section] across the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.

3. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 2 wherein each of said left and right adjustable portions include [attachment block means comprises] an attachment block section having an elongate threaded [treaded] tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.
4. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

Cancel claim 5.

6. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 4 [5] wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.
7. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable assembly of [as in] claim 1 wherein said left and right secured portions are [block means is] fixedly connected to said left and right side rails [end of said tensioning rail] and said left and right adjustable portions are engaged with [attachment block means is fixedly connected to] said left and right ends of said tensioning rail.
8. (Twice amended) An adjustable tonneau cover for a cargo box having [that comprises] upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall, and a rear end gate wall that collectively define [said walls defining the] boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable tonneau cover [assembly] comprising:
a flexible cover;

left and right side rails connectable [rail connected] to said left and right side walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having [a] left and right ends, [end] said tensioning rail extending from said left side rail to said right rail, the flexible cover being secured to the elongate tensioning rail; and

[a] left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, including: left and right securing blocks [block means] connected to said left and right side rails, respectively [rail];

[a] left and right adjustable engaging blocks engaged with [attachment block means connected to] said left and right ends of said tensioning rail, respectively; and

[an] left and right adjustable connection mechanisms [means for] connecting the respective securing blocks to the respective adjustable engaging blocks; and

a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to provide a measurement guide for accurate adjustment of said left and right ends of said tensioning rail with respect to the left and right side rails, respectively.

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9. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 8 wherein each of the [said] left and right securing blocks has [block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a] front and rear block sections [section] connected to a base block section so as to define a space between the [said] front and rear block sections, the [, said] front and rear block sections further defining openings [a hole] in an aligned orientation so as to pass through both of [said front and rear block section across said space between] said front and rear block sections.

10. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] claim 9 wherein each of said left and right adjustable engaging blocks includes [attachment block means comprises] an attachment block section having an elongate treaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block

[section] and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning the [said] space between the [said] front and rear block sections.

11. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in] ✓
claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear
block sections [section] defining an inner threaded opening [hole] for receiving
said threaded tension screw.

Cancel claim 12.

13. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in]
claim 11 [12] wherein said openings [hole] defined by said front and rear block
sections are [is] of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. (Twice amended) The [An] adjustable tonneau cover of [for a cargo box as in]
claim 8 wherein said left and right securing blocks are [block means is] fixedly
connected to said left and right side rails, respectively [end of said tensioning
rail], and said left and right attachment blocks are [block means is] fixedly
connected to the respective ends of the tensioning [said left and right] rail.

Please add claims 15 through 25 as follows:

15. An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo
box, the cargo box having a left and right side upwardly extending walls that
define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly
comprising:
left and right side rails connected to the left and right side walls, respectively;
an elongate tensioning rail having a tensioning rail attachment chamber and left
and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail,
the tensioning rail being operatively configured to attach to the tonneau
cover; and

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left and right adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms, each of the
respective adjustable threaded screw adjustment mechanisms having:
a side rail securing portion, operatively connected to respective side rails,
with a threaded screw member positioned and arranged such that
a force can be placed upon the tensioning rail by each of the
threaded screw members as the screw member is adjustably
manipulated to force the tensioning rail away from the respective
side rail securing portion; and
a tensioning rail engagement member engaged with the tensioning rail
within the tensioning rail attachment chamber.

16. The adjustable assembly of claim 15 wherein each of tensioning rail engagement member extends below the side rail such that the tensioning rail is restrained from being lifted away from the respective side rail when the respective engagement member is engaged with the respective side rail.
17. The adjustable assembly of claim 15 wherein each threaded screw member is engaged in coaxially aligned openings in each of the respective side rail securing portion.
18. An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail, the adjustable assembly comprising: left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks operatively configured to slidingly secure the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail with the respective left and right side rails; and

left and right tensioning screws positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails.

19. The adjustable assembly of claim 18 further comprising left and right side rail adjustment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right side rails, respectively, each tensioning screw having a first end portion attached to one of the adjustment blocks and a second end attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks.

20. An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls, respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail, the adjustable assembly comprising: left and right side rail adjustment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right side rails, respectively; left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks operatively configured to attach to the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and left and right tensioning screws, each tensioning screw having a first end portion attached to one of the adjustment blocks and a second end attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks such that such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails.

21. A tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially

define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the tonneau cover tension
adjuster apparatus comprising
left and right side rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side
walls, respectively;
an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left
side rail and the right side rail; and
an adjustable assembly comprising:
left and right side rail adjustment blocks attached to the left and right side
rails, respectively;
left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks attached to the left and
right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and
left and right tensioning screws, each tensioning screw having a first end
portion attached to one of the adjustment blocks and a second end
attached to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks such that
such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by
each of the tensioning screws as each tensioning screw is
adjustably manipulated to move the elongate tensioning rail with
respect to left and right side rails.

22. A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover tension
adjuster apparatus secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the truck cargo box
having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an
interior compartment of the cargo box, the method comprising steps of:
providing a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side
rails operatively configured to connect to the left and right side walls,
respectively, and an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that
extend between the left side rail and the right side rail;
providing an adjustable assembly having left and right tensioning screws
positioned and arranged with corresponding left and right tensioning rail
attachment blocks operatively configured to slidingly secure the left and

right ends of the elongate tensioning rail with the respective left and right side rails; and
adjustably manipulating each tensioning screw to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising steps of:

attaching a tonneau cover to the left and right side rails;

attaching left and right side rail adjustment blocks to the left and right side rails, respectively;

attaching a first end portion of each tensioning screw to one of the adjustment blocks and attaching a second end of the tensioning screw to one of the tensioning rail attachment blocks; and

manipulating each tensioning screw to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment blocks to place greater tension on the tonneau cover.

24. A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the truck cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls that at least partially define an interior compartment of the cargo box, the method comprising steps of:

connecting a tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus having left and right side rails to the left and right side walls, respectively, the tonneau cover tension adjuster apparatus comprising an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends that extend between the left side rail and the right side rail;

attaching a tonneau cover to the left and right side rails;

attaching left and right side rail adjustment blocks to the left and right side rails, respectively;

attaching left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks to the left and right ends of the elongate tensioning rail, respectively; and

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attaching left and right tensioning screws to the left and right side rail adjustment blocks and left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks,
attaching a first end portion of first tensioning screw to the first adjustment block and attaching a second end of the first tensioning screw to the first tensioning rail attachment block;
attaching a first end portion of second tensioning screw to the second adjustment block and attaching a second end of the second tensioning screw to the second tensioning rail attachment block; and
adjustably manipulating each tensioning screw to move the elongate tensioning rail with respect to left and right side rails such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the tensioning screws.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the adjustably manipulating step comprises manipulating each tensioning screw to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment blocks to place greater tension on the tonneau cover.
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